

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02491 271522Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 /022 W
-----070820 280637Z /13

R 271508Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1124
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN POUCH
AMCONSUL DURBAN POUCH
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2491

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC, SF
SUBJECT: EXPANDED EXPORT CONTROLS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA-
MEDICINES FOR SADF

REF: PRETORIA 1839

1. QUOTE: REFTEL REPORTED INQUIRY BY SOUTH AFRICAN SUB-
SIDIARY OF MERCK CONCERNING SALE OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO SA
DEFENSE FORCE (SADF) AND POLICE. EMBASSY HAS NOW BEEN CON-
TACTED BY ETHNOR, A SUBSIDIARY OF JOHNSON AND JOHNSON, WITH
SIMILAR INQUIRY. AS IN PREVIOUS CASE, EMBOFF SUGGESTED U.S.
HAD OFFICE CONTACT OFFICE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION, USDOC.

2. EMBARGO ON SALES OF U.S. MEDICINES TO SADF AND POLICE
IS LIKELY TO EMERGE AS A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN PRESS AT
ANYTIME. IF IT DOES SO, WE FEAR IT WILL GIVE IMPRESSION
USG IS ACTING IN SPITEFUL AND INHUMANE MANNER. IT IS
LIABLE TO BE USED BY SAG TO CREATE IMPRESSION WE ARE
STEEPING UP ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND TO FURTHER EMBITTER
SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES.

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3. FROM A PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, WE DOUBT THAT AN
EMBARGO OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINES THAT ARE
FREELY AVAILABLE ON CIVILIAN MARKET HERE CAN BE KEPT
AWAY FROM MILITARY AND POLICE. WE ALSO QUESTION
WHETHER ANY SIGNIFICANT PROTEST WOULD BE RAISED BY
OTHER AFRICAN STATES OR WITHIN U.S. OVER THIS ISSUE,
ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR CONTROLS WOULD STILL GO FAR BEYOND

OBLIGATIONS UNDER UN ARMS EMBARGO OR THOSE OF OTHER
WESTERN NATIONS. FACT THAT WE HAVE MADE EXCEPTIONS ON
HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR CUBA, RHODESIA, ETC. WITHOUT
RESTRICTION TO CIVIL USE WOULD ADD FURTHER JUSTIFICATION TO
SUCH AN EXCEPTION. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION
BE GIVEN TO AMENDING EAR 175 TO EXEMPT MEDICAL ITEMS FROM EMBARGO.
END QUOTE
NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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